THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) An outline of the processed draft Processed Food Development Bill has been drawn up by the Ministry of food Processing Industries, which envisages *inter-alia* setting up of a Processed Food Development Authority to establish standards for processed foods. As the proposal is only in a preliminary stage details have not been worked out.

(c) and (d) The Ministry organized four Regional Seminars, a National Conference and a National Seminar regarding formulation of the draft policy on Food Processing. During the deliberations of these Seminars wherein the representatives of State Governments, industry associations, industrialists, R&D institutions and other experts participated, the unanimous view expressed was that there is a multiplicity of agencies dealing with food standards and food quality and that to facilitate the growth of the industry a single window approach is desirable.

Navodaya/Kendriya Vidyalayas in Himachal Pradesh

†659. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Himachal Pradesh where approval for opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas[y]Kendriya Vidyalayas has not been given so far;

(b) the places where approval to open such Vidyalayas had been granted but they have not yet been opened;

(c) the reasons for not opening of these Vidyalayas; and

(d) by when such Vidyalayas would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) All the districts of Himachal Pradesh excepting Kullu have Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. Kendriya Vidyalayas are not opened district-wise and at present the districts of Kinnaur, Kullu, Bilaspur, Una and Lahaul-Spiti do not have Kendriya Vidyalayas. There is presently no proposal to open Kendriya

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Vidyalaya in these districts. The matter has been taken up with the State Government for providing required land and other infrastructure for opening Navodaya Vidyalaya in Kullu district and the proposal, as and when received from state Government, will be considered on merits.

Comparative Literacy rates in States

660. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest decennial census figure about literacy has come to the Ministry, if so, how does it compare with literacy figures of NSS assessment of different States; and

(b) whether a study has been done about slower or stagnant literacy growth of a few states; if so, what are the factors responsible for it and how the Ministry is going to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The National literacy rate for all persons has steadily increased from 52.2% in Census 1991 to 62% in NSSO, 1997 to 65.38% in Census 2001 (Provisional). A detailed statement is given (See below).

(b) External evaluation studies which are conducted on completion of literacy programmes have revealed the following factors as being responsible for slower literacy growth:—

- Low enrolment rate in Elementary Education particularly of Socially and Economically deprived sections of the society.
- High drop out and low retention.
- Social discrimination.
- Gender based inequality.
- Economic exploitation.

Government have adopted the following strategies to improve literacy:—

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is a holistic and convergent